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Veterinarian for 73 Years

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Veterinarian for 73 years

Like many of those who enrolled in the Veterinary Department in the early 1900s, Evan L. Stubbs had a farm background. Born January 3, 1890, on a dairy farm near Oxford, Pennsylvania, he learned to milk cows long before he reached school age. As a youngster, before starting for school each morning, it was his task to deliver the milk to a receiving station. Dr. Stubbs graduated from high school as valedictorian and then spent a year working on the farm.

He entered the Veterinary Department in 1908 with the aid of a scholarship which he obtained through the help of Dean Leonard Pearson. At that time tuition was \$100 per year, and the program lasted three years. Classes were held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with one-half hour for lunch. The School was located in the present quadrangle building, the first portion of which had been completed in 1907.

After graduation, Dr. Stubbs spent two and one-half years in a country practice operated from his father's farm. He called on his patients at area farms in a horse-drawn buggy. In 1913 he accepted a position to be a veterinarian on the State Farm operated by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Animal Industry, located outside Philadelphia in Marple Township. The position was offered to him by Dr. Clarence J. Marshall, State Veterinarian and professor of veterinary medicine in the Veterinary Department. The primary work at the State Farm (also called the Experimental Farm) was the production of anti-hog cholera serum which was supplied free to veterinarians. Dr. Stubbs was also on-call to visit sites of hog cholera outbreaks and was available for other diagnostic assistance. Anti-anthrax serum was also produced here, and, in addition, a herd of cattle, all reactors to the tuberculin test, was maintained in order to study bovine tuberculosis and to standardize the intradermal tuberculin test.

In 1919 the State Farm was disbanded and Dr. Stubbs was transferred to the State Laboratory which was located in the Veterinary School. Here, he was responsible for running a variety of diagnostic tests. Brucellosis was prevalent and blood testing was started to diagnose this important disease in cattle. While working in the laboratory, Dr. Stubbs became interested in poultry diseases, which, at that time, were neglected by the veterinary profession. By 1927, Dr. Stubbs was director of the laboratory and had published fifteen papers on poultry diseases. He also initiated a special course on poultry diseases which was presented to veterinary students. He continued to teach this course until 1960.

In December 1927, Dr. Stubbs resigned his post in the laboratory, which, at this time, was moved from the Veterinary School to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Upon his resignation he



was appointed full-time professor of pathology in the Veterinary School.

Soon after joining the faculty, Dr. Stubbs became associated with Dr. Jacob Furth of the Phipps Institute. Dr. Furth was interested in leukemia and had a grant to study this disease. Together Drs. Stubbs and Furth isolated strain 13 leukemia virus from chickens, and the study of this virus was to become a major project for many years. Strain 13 virus produced both leukemia and sarcoma in chickens and Dr. Stubbs and his associates attempted to separate a specific leukemia virus from the sarcoma virus, an attempt which never succeeded. Throughout his career in the Veterinary School Dr. Stubbs continued research on poultry diseases and on various aspects of pathology. He published 161 scientific articles. It was significant that early in his career Dr. Stubbs was conducting original research when very little of such work was being done by other members of the faculty.

Dr. Stubbs had a great personal impact on many areas in the evolution of the Veterinary School. He was the first faculty member to be



appointed to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. As a result of his appointment, he was instrumental in Dr. Israel Live's being the first veterinarian to be admitted to graduate school and the first to obtain a Ph.D. degree in 1940.

Dr. Stubbs was involved in the creation of the School of Animal Pathology at Bolton Farm in the late 1930s. Bolton Farm was located in Bucks County. The formation of the School of Animal Pathology was a collaborative effort between the Veterinary School and the Medical School. This was the first organized attempt to bring the two schools together in a research atmosphere. Unfortunately, this auspicious beginning did not bear fruit. Dr. Alfred Stengel, Dean of the Medical School, and a staunch supporter of the plan, died, and sources of funding dried up. Some research was done at Bolton Farm on such diseases as brucellosis, periodic ophthalmia in horses, fowl leukosis and mastitis.

Dr. Stubbs played the leading role in the establishment of a clinical pathology laboratory in the Veterinary School in 1928. This laboratory provided diagnostic service for the hospital and served as a teaching mechanism. From 1948 until 1959, Dr. Stubbs was Extension Veterinarian and as such, he was responsible for the publication of the *Veterinary Extension Quarterly*. This was an excellent publication in which the faculty published many of their papers during the period 1921-1959. The journal was used to publish the proceedings of the Penn Annual Conference and contained many excellent review papers. Dr. Stubbs also organized the sheep blood unit which is still functioning. This unit, set up in 1940, was established to supply sheep blood on a regular basis to various laboratories within a 300-mile radius of Philadelphia.

Aside from these and other contributions to research and teaching, Dr. Stubbs, who became internationally known early in his career, carried the message about the Veterinary School to many parts of the world. He attended four World Veterinary Congresses (London 1931, New York 1934, Zurich 1938, and Hannover 1963), and eight World Poultry Congresses. At a number of these meetings, he presented papers. In 1962 he made a trip around the world with his wife and daughter.

Many graduates of the Veterinary School will remember Dr. Stubbs as an exacting teacher whose lectures were detailed and whose examinations were demanding. His faculty colleagues remember him as a quiet voice of conservatism backed-up with a vast personal experience in the growth of the veterinary profession throughout the world. He served on many important committees in the School and in the University.

Dr. Stubbs retired in 1960 and since then, has been emeritus professor of pathology. He lives with his wife in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in the vicinity of New Bolton Center. He still maintains an active interest in the School and has made a major contribution to the accumulation of historical material for the Centennial year. Dr. Stubbs still drives to Philadelphia to visit the School and for some time (unknown to his colleagues) he parked his car several blocks away and walked. After much arm-twisting he was convinced to use one of the lots adjacent to the School! Dr. Stubbs is one of the oldest living alumni.

We honor Dr. Evan L. Stubbs for his many years of contributions to his alma mater and wish him Godspeed. *Dr. John Martin.*